

Hand to Heart: The Significance of the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

Author	Jessica Medlin
Grade Level	1
Duration	3 class periods

National Standards
GEOGRAPHY Element 2: Places and Regions 4. The physical and human characteristics of places 6. How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions Element 4: Human Systems 10. The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.

AZ Standards
ELA Reading Key Ideas and Details 1.RI.2 Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text. Craft and Structure 1.RI.4 Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text. Writing Text Types and Purposes 1.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

Arizona Social Science Standards
GEOGRAPHY Examining human population and movement helps individuals understand past, present, and future conditions on Earth's surface. 1.G3.1 Explain why and how people, goods, and ideas move from place to place. 1.G3.2 Compare places past and present as it relates to content focus. HISTORY Patterns of social and political interactions have shaped people, places, and events throughout history and continue to shape the modern world. 1.H4.1 Explain and explore origins of key American symbols, documents, landmarks, holidays, and leaders as well as their importance from the past to the present in our country.

Overview

Students should have an understanding of the significance of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem. Knowledge of these works helps students gain an appreciation for the culture and history of the United States.

Purpose

In this lesson students will learn how the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem are important to the citizens of the United States. They will also look at how America celebrates the 4th of July. This is a good lesson for the beginning of the school year.

Materials

- The Pledge of Allegiance Worksheet, Images, and Answer Key
- Scissors and glue
- The 4th of July graphic organizer

- How to Celebrate the 4th of July worksheet
- Recording of *The Star Spangled Banner* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1wLtAXDg_gg (first 1.22 min)
- Pingry, P. (2005) *The Story of the Star Spangled Banner*. Nashville, TN: Candy Cane Press
- *The Pledge of Allegiance* (2000). New York: Scholastic Inc., Scholastic
- What Do I Know About My Country? assessment and Answer Key

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Illustrate the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Write sentences that introduce a topic, provide details, and serve as a conclusion.
3. Identify activities that occur on the 4th of July.
4. Identify the national anthem.
5. Describe the original flag and today's flag.

Procedures

Hand to Heart: The Significance of the Pledge of Allegiance

SESSION ONE

1. Begin the lesson by asking students to list important symbols to our country (flag, bald eagle, Statue of Liberty, etc.). Ask them to tell you what they know about those symbols.
2. Explain that they will look at two writings that are important to our country: The Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem. These two writings are symbols of our country.
3. Discuss what the students know about the pledge (when it is done and how).
4. Project the Pledge of Allegiance worksheet and read the words along with the students. Repeat several times.
5. Distribute the worksheet and the images to the students. Model how to cut out the pictures and glue them in correct order while you read and show pictures from the book *The Pledge of Allegiance*.
6. Begin first by having the students draw self-portraits in the "I" box.
7. Then skip to the back cover of the book to explain the history of the Pledge. Show the last page of the book which has the original flag. Read aloud this page to explain that there were only 13 stars that represented the first 13 states. These first 13 states were the 13 colonies that fought for independence in the American Revolution.
8. As you read the picture book, pause to show the pictures and have students glue pictures to their pledge worksheet. Pause to discuss the pictures. Example: What is the picture of? How does the picture go with the words? Hint: The back of the book explains the photos.
9. Conclude by having students say in unison the Pledge of Allegiance.

SESSION TWO

10. Play a recording of "The Star Spangled Banner."
11. Ask the students to explain what they know about the song and where they may have heard it.
12. Explain that the song is our national anthem. It is named "The Star Spangled Banner." Read *The Story of the Star Spangled Banner*. Pause to ask the students questions. What are the baseball players and fans doing in this picture? (Singing the national anthem) What does the American flag at the fort mean? (The Americans own the fort). Why was Key worried? (The Americans could lose the battle) What did Key see in the

morning? (The American flag waving) Stand to show how what you do during the anthem.

13. Distribute the What Do I Know About My Country worksheet. Explain that the words in the Word Box will only be used once. Have students complete the assessment.

SESSION THREE

14. Explain that there is a special day of the year when we celebrate our country and show that we are proud to be Americans. Ask if the students can guess this holiday's name. Tell them that on the 4th of July, we celebrate the United States becoming a country. To jog their memory of when this day occurs, you can show images of families enjoying fireworks and 4th of July celebrations.
15. On the 4th of July graphic organizer, ask the student to write down (around the food bubble) foods they remember eating on this day (i.e. hot dogs, watermelon, pie). Ask them to write things they remember their family doing (barbeque, water balloons, sparklers) on this day. Ask them to also write down things the town does to celebrate. You can refer to your city guides or local websites for more information to assist the students (i.e. fireworks, parades, pancake breakfasts).
16. Then have the students use their 4th of July paper to write three sentences on the How to Celebrate the 4th of July paper. Read through the sentence starters and model some sentences to give them an idea of what is wanted.
17. Close by sharing some customs that may not be part of your area's celebration (flying the flag at your house, making ice cream, going to a parade, make root beer, have a block party, barbequing, boat parades, hot dog eating contests, water gun fights, wearing red/white/blue, lobster racing, visiting national parks, taking vacations, seeing Uncle Sam).

Assessment

Social Sciences

The Pledge of Allegiance can be graded for accuracy. Mastery will be considered all but 1-2 pictures are in the correct order.

The What Do I Know About My Country? assessment can be graded. Mastery will be considered 6 of the 8 words are in the correct location.

Hand to Heart: The Significance of the Pledge of Allegiance

ELA

The 4th of July graphic organizer can be graded. Mastery will be 2 or more plausible answers near each bubble.

The How to Celebrate the 4th of July writing assignment can be graded. Students should have at least one good sentence for each of the three prompts to be considered mastery.

Extensions

As a class, the students can write a pledge to their class or as individuals, write a pledge to his/her family.

Students can look at flags after the time of the American Revolution to see how the number of stars grows as new states are added to our union.

Sources

Microsoft ClipArt

Pingry, P.(2005)*The Story of the Star Spangled Banner*.Nashville, TN: Candy Cane Press

The Pledge of Allegiance (2000). New York: Scholastic Inc., Scholastic